

**ABSTRACT**

A writing instrument includes a barrel having a channel with an open end, and a writing element disposed in the channel. The writing element is movable between a retracted position and an extended position. At least a portion of the writing element is resilient and may be resiliently deflected in a direction substantially transverse to the longitudinal axis of the writing instrument. The resilient deflection of the writing element biases the writing element to engage the channel and to retain the writing element in the extended position. Various other features which improve the functioning of the writing instrument or actuator member may be provided separately or in combination. In example, the actuator may be mounted for non-linear movement to extend or retract a writing element. Also a release member may be provided along a side of the barrel to move the writing element out of engagement with the channel.

10053621.012402